

Most classic fairy tales are set long ago, yet the themes in fairy tales make them timeless. Because of this, classic fairy tales lend themselves to being retold in many different ways. The new version may be a **retelling** in which the original story is set in the present day. The story may have the same plot, or it may have new, modern twists. Read the following excerpt of a modern retelling of the classic fairy tale "Little Red Riding Hood." As you read, note the **connections** you make between this retelling and the original story.

from **Little Red and the Big Bad** by Will Shetterly

You know I'm giving the straight and deep 'cause it's about a friend of a friend. A few weeks back, just 'cross town, a true sweet chiquita, called Red for her fave red hoodie, gets a 911 from her momma's momma. The Grams is bedbound with a winter bug, but she's jonesing for Sesame Noodles, Hot and Sour Soup, and Kung Pao Tofu from the local Chineserie—'cept their delivery wheels broke down. So Grams is notioning if Red fetches food, they'll feast together.

Red greenlights that. Veggie Asian chow and the Grams are solid in her top ten. So Red puts on her hoodie, leaves a note for the Moms, and BMXes away.

Now, down by the corner is a fine looking beastie boy who thinks he's the Big Bad, and maybe he is. He sees Red exit the eatery with a humongous bag of munch matter and calls, "Hey, Little Red Hoodie Hottie. Got me a tasty treat?"

Red doesn't slow. She just says, "Not if you're not my Grams, and you're not."

This Big Bad wouldn't be so big or so bad if he quit easy. He smiles and follows Red to her chained-up wheels. While Red juggles dinner and digs for her bike lock key, the Bad says, "Take five? Or all ten?" and holds out both hands.

Red warms to his style and his smile—this beastie boy isn't half as smooth as he thinks he is, but half is twice as smooth as this town's seen. Red hands off the bag, the Bad peeps in, and his stomach makes a five-two Richter. He's thinking he's holding the appetizer, and Red's the main course. ❖

## Response Notes

*Red Riding Hood wore  
a hooded cape.*